

REMARKS

In a final Office Action dated September 7, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 15 as failing to further limit the subject matter of claim 8. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lipp (U.S. Patent No. 5,398,022). The Examiner objected to claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-10, and 12-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Examiner allowed claims 19 and 20. In an appeal filed December 20, 2005, the applicants appealed the rejections of claims 1, 8, and 15. In a decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated May 28, 2008, the Board affirmed the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 8, and 15. The rejections and objections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

In order to put the application in condition for allowance, the applicants have incorporated the limitations of objected to claim 2 into claim 1, have incorporated the limitations of objected to claim 9 into claim 8, and have canceled rejected claim 15. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claims 1 and 8 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 3 and 5-7 depend upon allowable claim 1 and claims 10 and 12-14 depend upon allowable claim 8, the applicants respectfully request that claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 12-14 may now be passed to allowance.

The applicants have canceled claims 2, 9, and rejected claim 15.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

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